

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7237

Petition of Five Ratepayers requesting a change )  
in service territory from Vermont Electric )  
Cooperative, Inc., to Town of Stowe Electric )  
Department )

Order entered: 1/28/2010

**ORDER RE: SCHEDULE**

On December 1, 2009, Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("VEC") filed a status report in this proceeding on behalf of itself and the Town of Stowe Electric Department ("Stowe"). In the status report, VEC and Stowe proposed that the schedule for this proceeding be changed such that on or before March 31, 2010, they would file a plan for converting the Sterling Valley customers, propose alternatives, or report the reasons why such a transaction should not occur. Stowe and VEC also proposed that the five Petitioners be queried to assess their interest in pursuing this matter.

I provided parties an opportunity to comment on VEC and Stowe's requests, and asked the Petitioners to comment on whether they are still interested in pursuing this matter.

On January 21, 2010, Mr. Denardo filed a letter on behalf of the Five Petitioners, stating that they are still interested in pursuing this matter, and that they would be submitting a response to VEC and Stowe's proposals in the form of requests for information.

On January 27, 2010, Mr. Denardo submitted the Five Petitioners' requests for information from Stowe and VEC.

No other party filed comments.

After reviewing the parties' filings, I conclude that VEC and Stowe's request for additional time is reasonable and hereby approve it. In addition, since the parties agreed at the September 21, 2009, status conference that they would like to try to resolve the issues in this proceeding in a cooperative manner, I expect VEC and Stowe would respond to the Five

Petitioners' requests for information even without a formal deadline. However, in the interest of completeness, in this scheduling order I will also establish a deadline for such a reply. Parties may conduct additional discovery as they deem warranted on an informal basis. Any party is free to seek an order establishing a formal discovery schedule should the need arise.

Therefore, I establish the following schedule for the next steps in this proceeding:

February 12, 2010	Deadline for responding to Five Petitioners' January 27, 2010, requests for information.
March 31, 2010	VEC and Stowe to file a plan for converting the Sterling Valley customers, propose alternatives, or report the reasons why such a transaction should not occur.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

s/Ann Bishop  
Ann Bishop  
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: January 28, 2010

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*